CLAIMS

Subal 1.   A signal describing method for describing a feature data characteristic of the content of an input data, wherein a descriptor being a unit element defining a describing procedure are structured to have its attribute defined as lower-level element and may include other descriptor as attribute.

2.   The method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the input data includes at least one of visual data and audio data included in a video data.

3.   The method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the descriptor is generated to inherit functions from a higher-class descriptor including the capability of structuring.

4.   The method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the attribute as the lower-level element element is structured by defining the attribute of the descriptor and/or a special attribute.

5.   A data processor for generating a feature data characteristic of the content of an input data, comprising:

means for generating a feature data on the basis of a descriptor being a unit element defining a describing procedure and which is structured to have its attribute defined as lower-level element and may include other descriptor as attribute.

6.   The apparatus as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the input data includes at least one of visual data and audio data included in a video data.

7.   The apparatus as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the descriptor is generated to inherit functions from a higher-class descriptor including the capability of structuring.

8. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the attribute as the lower-level element is structured by defining the attribute of the descriptor and/or a special attribute.

9. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the feature data is sent along with the input data to an external apparatus.

10. A data processor for utilizing a feature data characteristic of the content of an input data, comprising:

means for restoring a feature of the content of the input data by utilizing the feature data generated on the basis of a descriptor being a unit element defining a describing procedure and which is structured to have its attribute defined as lower-level element and may include other descriptor as attribute.

11. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the input data includes at least one of visual data and audio data included in a video data.

12. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the descriptor is generated to inherit functions from a higher-class descriptor including the capability of structuring.

13. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the attribute as the lower-level element is structured by defining the attribute of the descriptor and/or a special attribute.

14. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the restoring means restores the feature of the input data and generates a processed one of the input data.

15. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 10, wherein the feature data is received

along with the input data from an external apparatus.